

REMARKS

Examiner states that the Applicant's response to the previous Office Action, the Office Action dated November 30, 1999, was not fully responsive, but since the submission appeared to be a bona fide attempt to provide a complete reply to the prior office action, Applicant is permitted to submit a complete reply. Applicant submits the current response as a complete reply to the previous Office Action. Applicant assumes that the claim amendments of Amendment B have been entered by the Examiner.

In response to the previous Office Action, please consider the following remarks. Claims 1, 13, and 16 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-18 and 21-22 are currently pending in this Application. No new matter has been added by the amendments to the claims.

35 USC § 112 Rejection

The Examiner states that claim 19 is rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and/or use the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 19 was cancelled without prejudice in Amendment B and, as such, the issue is moot at this time. Applicant has cancelled claim 19 strictly to expedite prosecution without limiting estoppel and reserves the right to reintroduce this claim in its original scope at a later time. Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has been overcome and requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Claim Rejections - Statutory and Obvious Type Double Patenting

The Examiner has provisionally rejected claims 1-20 as statutory or obvious type double patenting in view of Application Nos. 08/798,704, 08/810,679, 08/799,787 and 08/808,882.

Applicant has amended the claims in these co-pending applications as well as claim 1 in the present application. Applicant respectfully submits that the statutory and obvious type double patenting provisional rejections have been overcome and requests the Examiner withdraw the provisional rejection.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

The Examiner stated that claims 1-5 and 7-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Barone et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,315,711 (Barone et al.). Examiner states that Barone discloses a computer network system, substantially as claimed.

In contrast to the claimed invention, Barone discloses a system for controlling a plurality of host processors from either a single remote workstation or a plurality of workstations having a host processor 10, a host console 12, a network 72, and a workstation 70 (Figure 5, col. 11, lines 46-55). Each console and workstation is coupled to the network, where the host processors may be remotely controlled by the workstations. The Network Connection Manager program on the console and the Console Connection Manager program on the Workstation establish and maintain a software coupling between programs on the Console and Workstation. The Network Connection Manager is capable of accepting socket connections and sending messages to Workstations having socket connections (col. 13, lines 34-43).

The claimed invention of the present application is patentably distinguishable from Barone et al. The claimed invention teaches a cluster computer system having a plurality of network accessible computers coupled to a network, client computers coupled to the network, and a cluster administration computer coupled to the network accessible computers. The network accessible computers implement host computer programs that permit the network accessible computers to operate as host computers for the client computers. The input devices of the client computers can be used to generate inputs to the host computers, and image information generated by the host computers can be viewed by the client computers. The cluster administration computer is able to monitor the operation of the network accessible computers.

Barone et al. does not teach the claimed invention in the present application. In particular, Barone et al. does not disclose a cluster administration computer coupled to the network accessible computers to monitor the operation of the network accessible computers. Unlike the claimed invention, Barone discloses only a workstation and a console, where the workstation includes a Console Connection Manager program allowing the workstation to establish a socket connection to a console. Barone et al. does not teach a third computer that monitors the operation of the network accessible computers.

Claims 1 and 13 include the combination of elements that distinguish the claimed invention from Barone et al. as discussed above. The applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 13 are in position to overcome this rejection and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

Dependent claims 2-4, 7-12, and 14 through 18 are dependent upon and include all the distinguishing limitations of claims 1 and 13, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2-4, 7-12, and 14 through 18 are in position to overcome this rejection and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

The Examiner stated that claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barone et al. in view of Van Hoff et al., ISBN: 0-201-48837-X. Examiner states that Barone discloses a system enabling high speed transmission of voice, image and data but fails to disclose the limitation of Java Applet client program adapters, but that such limitations would be obvious in view of Van Hoff et al.

As discussed above, Barone et al. fails to teach the present invention. In particular, Barone fails to teach a plurality of network accessible computers coupled to a network, client computers coupled to the network, and a cluster administration computer coupled to the network accessible computers and able to monitor the operation of the network accessible computers.

The network accessible computers implement host computer programs that permit the network accessible computers to operate as host computers for the client computers. The input devices of the client computers can be used to generate inputs to the host computers, and image information generated by the host computers can be viewed by the client computers.

Van Hoff fails to solve the inadequacies of Barone et al. Van Hoff discloses a web browser called HotJava that supports Java applets and may run on many types of computers. Van Hoff et al. does not disclose a plurality of network accessible computers coupled to a network, client computers coupled to the network, and a cluster administration computer coupled to the network accessible computers and able to monitor the operation of the network accessible computers. Further, Van Hoff does not teach, hint or suggest a cluster computer system wherein the client programs are Java applet programs and are transmitted to client computers via a TCP protocol network. Thus, Barone et al. in view of Van Hoff et al. do not teach hint or suggest the claimed invention.

Claim 1 includes the combination of elements that distinguish the claimed invention from Barone et al. as discussed above. Dependent claim 6 is dependent upon and includes all the distinguishing limitations of claim 1. The applicant respectfully submits that claim 6 is in position to overcome this rejection and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

Examiner stated that claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,581,390 (Fielden et al.) in view of Walker, Communication Quality and Forward Error Correction, Advanced Imaging, May 1995 (Walker). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Nonetheless, claims 19 and 20 were cancelled without prejudice in Amendment B and, as such, the issue is moot at this time. Applicant has cancelled claim 19 and 20 strictly to expedite prosecution without limiting estoppel and reserves the right to reintroduce this claim in its original scope at a later time. Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has been overcome and requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection.


Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that pending claims 1-18 and 21-22 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections and objections. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended the claims in order to expedite prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves the right to claims of the originally presented scope and variants thereof in continuing applications.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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